

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 103881
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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:MCEURVORST

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103881

EXDIS MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 3384 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA
NOCOSIA USNATO APR 21

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3384

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US

SUBJECT: GREEK REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

REF: STATE 95473

1. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA POLITICAL AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR GENERAL TZOUNIS APRIL 21 AND PROVIDED HIM WITH
RESPONSES TO TZOUNIS' EARLIER REQUESTS FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION
(ATHENS 2923) DRAWING ON THE GUIDANCE IN REFTEL. AT THE OUTSET
TZOUNIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FIGURE OF \$185 MILLION FOR THE
PIPELINE WHICH HE HAD CITED EARLIER WAS INCORRECT. HE SEEMED
SATISFIED WHEN TOLD THAT OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE IS THAT IT IS IN
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THE RANGE OF \$85 MILLION, AND PROBABLY LESS, BUT WE WILL HAVE TO
WAIT TO HAVE A BETTER PICTURE OF THE ACTUAL AMOUNTS.

2. BARBIS GAVE TZOUNIS A COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE SOLARZ
PRESS CONFERENCE (ANKARA 2538) AND SAID WE HOPED THIS WOULD HELP
CLEAR UP ANY QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT THE CONGRESSMAN HAD SAID.
TZOUNIS CLARIFIED THAT THE GREEK EMBASSY IN ANKARA HAD REPORTED

ACCOUNTS IN THE TURKISH PRESS WHICH REFERRED TO "LEASING" ARRANGEMENTS AND THIS HAD LED TO HIS QUESTION.

3. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR THEN DREW ON STATE 95851 IN RESPONDING TO TZOUNIS' EARLIER COMMENTS (ATHENS 2702) ABOUT THE HAIG-DAVOS TALKS. TZOUNIS REPLIED THAT OUR POSITION ON THIS WAS UNDERSTOOD, BUT WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THE QUESTION OF THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER CONCEPT WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BE FACED AS A POLITICAL ISSUE IN THE OPEN ENDED GROUP (OEG). DAVOS HAD MADE THE GREEK POSITION CLEAR TO GENERAL HAIG. HE HAD OFFERED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE BUT AS A SEPARATE MATTER AND NOT AS PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" GREECE WAS SEEKING. IT WAS SIMPLY NOT NEGOTIABLE AS PART OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS AND THE SUCCESS OF THE GREECE-NATO TALKS WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED, FOR THE REASONS EXPLAINED PREVIOUSLY, IF SACEUR INSISTED ON THIS POINT.

4. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS TELEGRAM TO USNMR SHAPE AND TO USDOCOSOUTH. MCCLOSKEY. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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